

Mr. Ysrael arrived on Guam in 1952 as a guest worker with a 3-year contract to serve as an accountant for a military bowling alley. He purchased six surplus bowling lanes and opened the Anigua Bowling Alley, Guam's first, post-war civilian bowling alley upon completing his contract. Seven years later, in 1958, he became a U.S. citizen and was drafted into the U.S. Army. Alfred served his adopted country with honor and after his service returned to civilian life to his fledgling business interests. In 1960, he married Diana Zeien, my sister, with whom he has five children: Michael, Elizabeth, Mariana, Catherine, and Donna. Alfred is a devoted father and husband who always placed his family responsibilities first. His son Michael now serves as general manager of Tanota Partners, and his daughter Donna also has joined the firm. Alfred and Diana are the proud, loving grandparents of 13 grandchildren.

Alfred opened the Fujita Hotel, which catered to the Japanese tourists who arrived too late in the evening to secure hotel rooms, in the late 1960s when Guam's tourist industry was in its infancy. Alfred also invested in bringing Hilton International to Guam and remains a shareholder in Hilton Guam Resort & Spa. In 1987, he built the SunRoute, Ohana, Hotel and the Regency, Ohana, 2 years later. Mr. Ysrael's most recent venture was the construction and operation of the Outrigger Guam Resort in 1999. Alfred also developed apartment buildings in addition to building hotels. His tenants were primarily teachers and other workers hired from off-island. In time, however, as Guam's population grew and housing shortages became acute, many came to know Mr. Ysrael as their landlord.

Alfred and his businesses also have given much back to the community. Alfred was elected to serve the people of Guam as a senator in the 12th and 13th Guam Legislatures, from 1973 to 1977. He also served as a member of the Guam Board of Education from 1970 to 1971. Alfred further has a long and established record of philanthropy and community service on Guam. Largely as a result of his commitment to family and community and a strong belief in sports for young people—his own children are accomplished athletes—Mr. Ysrael and Tanota Partners are supporters of swimming, soccer and Tae Kwon Do teams on Guam. They also provide support for the South Pacific Games, the Guam National Olympic Committee, and the American Cancer Society's Annual Relay for Life. Athletics aside, Alfred and his family have also helped to raise funds for the American Cancer Society to increase awareness about breast cancer on Guam.

It is said that successful business persons should give back to the community that fostered their success. For the past 50 years and continuing today, Mr. Alfred C. Ysrael has indeed come far from humble beginnings and has given back in many, many ways to our island community which he proudly calls home.

HONORING THE STATE CHAMPION FRANKLIN HIGH SCHOOL VARSITY CHEERLEADERS

HON. MARSHA BLACKBURN

OF TENNESSEE

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, January 31, 2007

Mrs. BLACKBURN. Madam Speaker, I ask my colleagues to join me today in congratulating the Franklin High School Varsity Cheerleading Squad for winning the 2006 TSSAA Cheerleading (Large Squad) State Championship.

On November 18, 2006 at Middle Tennessee State University, hundreds of hours of hard work were rewarded as the Lady Rebels narrowly upset another squad that had recently won a national championship.

This recognition reflects a dedication to practice and commitment to excellence. The teambuilding skills acquired by working together as a squad will doubtless benefit these young women for a lifetime.

Madam Speaker, please join me in thanking the parents, coaches and faculty of Franklin High School and again congratulating the members of the 2006 State Championship squad. I am sure this is not the last we will hear from this talented group of young women.

Laura Satterfield, Lindsey Jones, Taylor Kennerly, Kathleen Engstrand, Christie Kibler, Stacey Caravetta, Carly Joseph, Hannah Johnson, Chelsea Steen, Kacey Capps, Kelsey Raymond, Kate Allman, Rachel Mezger, Mary Musgrove, Kelsi Cates, Corianne Carter, Chelsea Ridens, Taylor Harrell, Grace Tenkhoff, Paige Tenkhoff, Kathryn Chambers, Courtland Harrell, Caroline Watson, Chandler Howell, Sara Thames.

HONORING BILL HILES FOR HIS LONG SERVICE TO TENNESSEE

HON. JOHN S. TANNER

OF TENNESSEE

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, January 31, 2007

Mr. TANNER. Madam Speaker, I rise today to recognize Bill Hiles, who is retiring this week after working for 23 years as a journalist at the Dyersburg State Gazette in Dyersburg, Tennessee. He has proven himself a quality writer who fairly, accurately and completely covers the information that is important to our community in northwest Tennessee.

Even before coming to the State Gazette, Bill was a distinguished scholar, journalist and pastor. He received a Bachelor's Degree in Philosophy at Transylvania College in Lexington, Kentucky, and a Master's Degree in Systematic Theology from the University of Durham in Durham, England. He has also studied at Vanderbilt University and the George Peabody College for Teachers, taught college-level writing and public relations courses and, having been ordained as a minister of the Christian Church, Disciples of Christ, served as pastor at several churches throughout Tennessee. After working at the Associated Press and United Press International, Bill was a general assignment reporter and sports columnist at The Tennessean in Nashville, Tennessee, where he

once sat across the desk from future Vice President Al Gore.

Madam Speaker, it has been a pleasure to work alongside Bill during his long service to Tennessee, and I am proud to call him my friend. I hope you and our colleagues will join Betty Ann and me in thanking Bill Hiles for his work, congratulating him on his well-earned retirement and wishing him all the best in the years to come.

THE SESQUICENTENNIAL OF THE ACADEMY OF MUSIC

HON. CHAKA FATTAH

OF PENNSYLVANIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, January 31, 2007

Mr. FATTAH. Madam Speaker, I rise today to recognize the 150th Anniversary of the grand opening of Philadelphia's Academy of Music—our "Grand Old Lady of Locust Street." Since January 26, 1857, the Academy has hosted more than one billion attendees at almost half a million performances. Generations of the region's children have sat in her elegant auditorium and caught their breath as the curtain rose on their first experience of an opera or ballet performance. Millions of them have sat up in wonder as they heard The Philadelphia Orchestra's rousing sounds for the first time. Hundreds of thousands of Philadelphians have walked proudly across the Academy's stage to accept their commencement certificate. Audiences and artists alike have flocked to Philadelphia from around the world because of the Academy of Music.

What a remarkable legacy for one building—a legacy that has a deeply personal meaning for many generations of the region's families who share memories of attending special events within her walls; a legacy that laid the foundation on which the city created the Avenue of the Arts, built the shining new Kimmel Center, and made Philadelphia one of the most vibrant cultural destinations in the world; a legacy of which all Philadelphia-area residents can be proud.

The Academy of Music 150th Anniversary Concert and Ball, held on January 27, 2007, reflected many facets of the Academy's rich history. World-renowned artists host Tom Brokaw, soprano Deborah Voigt, tenor Ben Heppner and vocalists John Lithgow, with Music Director Christoph Eschenbach and our own celebrated Philadelphia Orchestra and Philadelphia Singers, presented an outstanding program of grand opera, theater, Broadway, classical and popular music.

The concert was attended by over 2,400 of the region's political, civic and corporate leaders as well as special guests Their Royal Highnesses the Prince of Wales and the Duchess of Cornwall. Even the Prince's visit has a historical precedent in the Academy's rich past: his great, great grandfather, Edward VII, was one of the early visiting dignitaries to grace the Academy at a gala performance by the popular soprano Adelina Patti in 1860. The Prince of Wales will sit in the same box, dubbed "the Prince of Wales Box" since the 1860 visit that his ancestor occupied before him.

I congratulate the Academy on its sesquicentennial and look forward to many more years of important cultural contributions to our city.